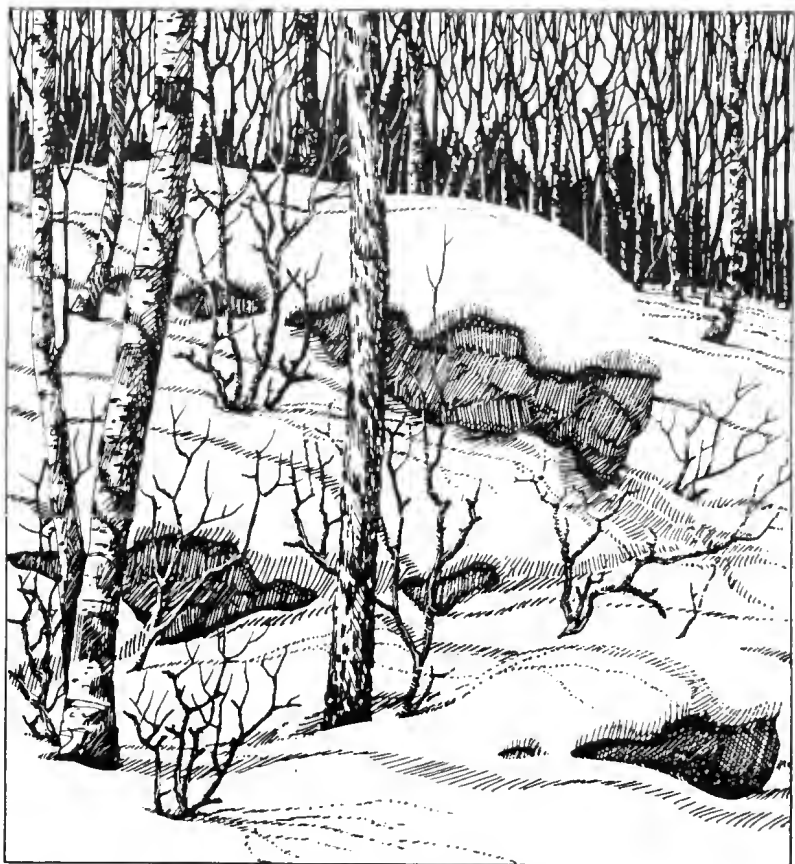


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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

**Editor**

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Sandra Gushue

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**Associate Editor**

Bill Gummer

**Production Assistants**

Suzanne Blain  
David Thomson

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Roy Jenkins

David Smythe

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

*President*

**E. Franklin Pope**

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$23      Sustaining (yearly) \$50  
Family (yearly) \$25      Life (one payment) \$500

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**Membership application, correspondence :**

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Box 35069, Westgate P.O.

Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

**Information:**

(613) 722-3030

*After 10 a.m.*

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by  
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January – March 1995

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

Alice F. Bustard and Family  
Diane Cooper and Family  
Sharon and John Critchley  
Ellen Derry and Ronald Woods  
Barbara Douma  
Lindsay A. Graham and Family  
Elisabeth L. Kanasy and Family  
John A. Livingston and Family  
Anne A. Mackenzie  
Brian J. Penney  
Clément Prévost  
Carole MB. Quarterman  
Juanita R. Sauve and Family  
Carolyn and David Sebuin

## Out of Town

Dany Boudrias, Brownsburg, QC  
Jon (Sandy) Dobbyn, Warton, ON

P. J. Mickey Narraway  
Membership Committee  
November, 1994



---

# Storage Problem for Back Issues of *Trail & Landscape*

*Joyce Reddoch and Bill Gummer*

Since 1967, when *Trail & Landscape* started, all back issues have been kept in storage. Now the storage space is becoming limited and under pressure, and we must take steps to dispose of most of the back issues. This will give you your last chance to complete your set, or to obtain any older issues that you may select. And for the future we plan to retain in storage only issues of the last five volumes, plus any special issues as described below.

Our proposed action involves two aspects.

The first is that we have thoroughly reviewed the *Trail & Landscape* indices, with the goal of identifying issues containing significant articles on subjects of Club interest. Forty-two articles have been selected, involving thirty-three different issues of *Trail & Landscape* up to and including Volume 26. These articles are listed in the tabulation below, and we plan to continue storing these.

The Club's present practice is to sell current issues and issues from the last two Volumes (e.g. Volumes 27 and 28) at \$4.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling; the practice for older issues puts them at \$2.50 each, plus the \$2.00 for postage and handling. All issues selected from Volumes 1 to 26 inclusive, and listed in the following tabulation will be available for \$2.50 plus postage and handling.

## Articles Selected for Further Retention and Sale

### Amphibians and Reptiles

15 (2): Amphibians and Reptiles of the Ottawa District (1981)

### Birds

11(1), 11(2), 11(3), 11(4), 11(5): How to See 200 Species in the Ottawa Area This Year (1977)

20(5): Birding Ottawa Sewage Lagoons (1986)

21(1): The Ruddy Duck in Eastern Ontario with Specific Reference to the Ottawa District (1987)

21(3): The Loggerhead Shrike: Status Report for the Ottawa District (1987)

22(2): An Introduction to Owling in the Ottawa District (1988)

25(1): Breeding Birds of the Marlborough Forest (1991)

- 26(2): "Quoth the Raven" (1992)  
26(4): Ring-billed Gulls in an Ottawa City Recreational Park (1992)

### **Fishes**

- 21(1): Checklist of the Fishes of the Ottawa District (1987)

### **Geology**

- 25(2): A short essay on the geological history of our area (1991)

### **Insects**

- 17(1): Tiger Beetles of the Ottawa Valley (1983)  
16(1): Butterflies of the Ottawa District (1982); 17(3), 18(3), 19(3), 20(3),  
21(3), 22(3), 25(2) updates

### **Mammals**

- 15(1): Whales and Seals of the Champlain Sea (1981)  
18(3), 18(4), 18(5): Seven Years of Mammal-Watching on Mount St. Patrick  
(1984)  
26(2): Of Chipmunks and Changing Landscapes (1992)

### **Plants**

- 11(1): Articles on the Regional Forest (1977)  
11(4): Carnivorous Plants of the Ottawa District (1977)  
21(5): Blooming Periods of Ottawa District Orchids (1987)  
22(4): A Key to the Viburnums of the Ottawa District (1988)  
25(3): Rare Canadian Vascular Plants and Their Occurrence in the Ottawa  
District (1991)  
25(4): Goldenrods (1991)

### **Wetlands**

- 17(3): Alfred Bog (1983)  
13(1): Calcareous Fens in the Ottawa District (1979)  
23(3): Fens of the Ottawa District Update (1989)  
24(2), 26(3): Albion Road Wetlands Parts 1 and 2 (1990; 1992)

### **Club History**

- 13(3): Favourite OFNC Excursion Places (1979)

Articles of similar significance will continue to be selected from *Trail & Landscape* volumes in the future, and will be stored in the same way. For

instance, we have already made four selections from Volumes 27 and 28, as follows:

27(1): The Liliaceae and Smilacaceae of the Ottawa District (1993)

27(4): Albion Road Wetlands Part 3 (1993)

28(3): The Rushes of the Ottawa District (1994)

28(4): Gatineau Park: Vegetation, History and Geomorphology (1994)

The second aspect is to dispose of all remaining issues of Volumes 1-26 (that is, except those listed in the preceding tabulation) by 30 March, 1995. They will be available, free of charge, on a first-come/first-served basis. All you have to do is pick them up. Simply send a list of the issues you want, with your name, address and phone number, to the Club address (as on *Trail & Landscape* back cover). Someone will telephone you to arrange for pick-up. We anticipate that those copies not taken by Club members will have to be destroyed.

Finally, the two *Trail & Landscape* indices are available by mail, or at our monthly meetings:

Cumulative Index, Volumes 1-20, \$8.00 (plus \$2.00 postage and handling.)

Five-Year Index, Volumes 21-25, \$3.00 (plus \$2.00 postage and handling.)

A number of Club items are commonly available on sale at monthly meetings, and these sometimes include copies of certain back issues of *Trail & Landscape*, at \$2.50 per copy.

To order by mail send your request along with a cheque or money order payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalist's Club, to the Club address, as designated on the back cover. ☐

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## Mugs, Mugs, Mugs



The Excursions & Lectures Committee asks that you please bring your own mugs to the monthly meetings. (There will be a few disposable cups available for the forgetful.) Reduce, reuse and recycle begins with us. And while we are on the topic, why not bring your own mug to all those other meetings or social gatherings that you attend. ☐

---

# The OFNC – Now on the Information Highway

*Cheryl McJannet*

As of November 1, 1994 The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club became an "Information Provider" on the National Capital FreeNet (NCF).



## What is a Freenet?

Freenet is a **free** computer service for the public and for organizations providing information. The concept of a "Freenet" originated in the United States, where there are currently over 20 cities with Freenets. Essentially, a Freenet is a community-based information network, in which the cost to the public user and institutions who provide the information is **FREE**. Similar to the concept of a public library, a Freenet provides free access to a wealth of information.

The National Capital FreeNet (NCF) is located in the National Capital Region of Canada and is one of the first Freenets in Canada. There are also Freenets in Manitoba, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Quebec. The NCF is linked to the other Freenets in Canada and the Freenets in United States.

The NCF is funded through federal and provincial grants, corporate sponsorship and voluntary contributions. It is a non-profit community-based volunteer organization.



### **Benefits to the OFNC**

In the National Capital region, the NCF provides an alternative medium for citizens to access organizations in their community and in turn for organizations, such as The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, to become more visible and accessible. The NCF also provides users and information providers an inexpensive opportunity to explore the Internet.

The National Capital FreeNet will provide The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club with the immediate potential exposure to 28,000 NCF members. Since its launching February 1, 1993, the NCF has grown from 400 members to its present day figure of 28,000 members and has almost become a household name in the National Capital Region. As a result, the NCF will provide an additional free outlet for information dispersal in the National Capital Region.

### **How to Access the National Capital FreeNet**

To access the NCF you will need access to a computer and a modem. For those who do not have a computer or modem the Ottawa Public Library and Carleton University have terminals which can be used to access the NCF and help is available if you need it. The number to call to dial into the NCF is 564-3600 (if you have a 14.4 bps modem you can also call 564-0808). You can register on-line to become a member of the NCF or call their office number at 788-3947.

### **The Information Being Provided**

With the approval of the Education & Publicity Committee, of which I am a member, and the approval of Council, I designed the menu structure and the information contained within and then uploaded this information to the NCF. The menu is divided into 8 submenus including: About the Club, Objectives of the Club, Club History, Publications, Activities, Committees, How to become a member, and How to become a volunteer. Most of the information was obtained from the OFNC brochure and from Dave Moore. The information listed includes: the Club's main phone number and address, the Bird Hotline, and how to order publications. In the coming year, we will be looking for other kinds of information to be added to this list, so any ideas will be welcome.

### **How to Access the OFNC Menu**

The simplest way to access the OFNC menu is to type go ofnc at the prompt, once you are logged onto the NCF Main Menu. The other way to access the OFNC menu is to go systematically through the NCF menu system as follows: Social Services, Health & Environment Centre (#5), The Environment (#1), Non-Government Organizations (#4), The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (#9).

**The NCF is arranged in a series of menus, hierarchal in nature:**

---

**The National Capital FreeNet < Main Menu >**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. About the National Capital FreeNet...               | 9. Schools, Colleges and Universities...    |
| 2. Administration...                                   | 10. The Newsstand...                        |
| 3. Post Office...                                      | 11. Libraries...                            |
| 4. Public Discussion...                                | 12. Special Interest Groups...              |
| 5. Social Services, Health, &<br>Environment Centre... | 13. The Communications Centre...            |
| 6. Community Associations...                           | 14. Help Desk...                            |
| 7. The Government Centre...                            | 15. Espace francophone du Libertel...       |
| 8. Science, Engineering and Technology<br>Centre...    | 16. The Great FreeNet On-Line<br>Auction... |
- 

**The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club < Main Menu >**

1. About the Club
  2. Objectives of the Club
  3. Club History
  4. Publications
  5. Activities
  6. Committees
  7. How to Become a Member
  8. How to Become a Volunteer
- 

*To provide ideas or for more information contact Cheryl McJannet(836-4466 or aa608@freenet.carleton.ca or the Education & Publicity Committee.☐*

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# Sermons in Stones

*Linda Jeays*

The child fingers small pebbles on my coffee table.  
In a voice which penetrates the layer cake, he asks:  
“Why do you have old rocks in your living room?”  
After-silence extends the meaning of the question.  
His mother is from a world of bone china and crystal,  
Broadloom and chandeliers. She has no answer.  
I am from a world of teddy bears and tennis shoes,  
Pressed flowers and pen nibs, crayons and candlelight.  
I heave myself out of the puppy-worn corduroy sofa,  
Kneel on a braided rug, close to the child, and begin:  
“These stones show us the history of an ocean.  
Water ebbed and flowed, washing away rough edges  
Until the pebbles became hard, like sugared almonds.  
This is pirate treasure: star-patterned sand dollars,  
Gathered along misty shores in the early morning.  
These limpets clung to a dangerous rocky coastline:  
Now they are monuments for the dead.”  
The child is thoughtful. He understands.  
All is quiet, until the silver-teapot mother says:  
“Son, don’t ask such rude questions.”

---

# A Great Horned Owl: Supper at -10° C

*James D. Georgiles*

The Canadian winter with its sub-zero temperatures is hard on all avian wildlife, particularly on eaters of carrion and large predators whose prey also can be large. How do they manage to devour frozen carcasses, or consume their prey before it freezes solid? Well, one winter night we observed a bird that had solved the problem.

"I don't remember that shrub's being there," my wife had called out from where she was standing by the picture window overlooking the river bank. I joined her and together we admired the scene through the window; it was -10°C, there was no moon, but the noctilucence of that late winter night illuminated the snow-covered river bank silhouetting every shrub and clump of foliage against a white background. We looked carefully at the "shrub" in question, but in the reduced light it had no distinctive outline.

We peered intently for about 15 minutes and then were rewarded; the "shrub" moved exposing two tufted ears; it was a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). We turned off the lights within the house and switched on the outside floods to get a better view. The owl was plainly visible and seemed to be perched on a small hump completely unconcerned by the sudden change in light intensity. A few minutes passed and the owl stepped off the hump, exposing it to be the inert body of its most recent victim.

The owl immediately began plucking its prey, tossing tufts of fur or feathers into the night air. The plucking continued for about 10 minutes after which the owl perched on its prey as if incubating it. The owl sat silent and still for 15 minutes, then it dismounted and resumed its plucking for another 10 minutes before again mounting its prey and assuming an incubating posture. Fifteen minutes passed before the owl descended, but this time it began ripping at its prey and swallowing the morsels of flesh which it detached. It fed for about 10 minutes and resumed its incubation. The feeding and incubating procedure was repeated alternately at almost regular intervals.

We watched absorbedly and time passed unnoticed. I eventually looked at my watch, it was 2:30 a.m. and we had been watching the owl since 11:30 p.m.; it

was time to go to bed. We did so reluctantly, but the owl could feed for hours. We switched off the floods and turned in.

The following morning I walked down the bank to where the owl had been feeding; expecting to find the frozen remains of its victim, for surely it would have frozen solid before the owl could have consumed it. But all that remained to document the episode was the imprint in the snow of the owl's outstretched wing tips. The feathers were clearly delineated as if an angel had alighted from heaven; it must have been an angel of death, for there between the impressions of the wing tips lay a bloodstained depression where an unwary rabbit had met an untimely end. Nearby, its hind leg with some fur-covered flesh still attached to the lower end revealed the story. Perhaps it will bring me better luck than it did the rabbit.

The owl, by alternating feeding with incubating the carcass had kept it warm and soft for hours until it was entirely consumed.□

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## Any Articles for *Trail & Landscape*?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form – typed, written, printed or painted!

---

**DEADLINE:** Material intended for the April–June 1995 issue must be in the editor's hands by February 15, 1995. Mail your manuscripts to:

Fenja Brodo  
Editor, *Trail & Landscape*  
28 Benson Street  
Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5  
H: (613) 723-2054; W: (613) 990-6443 Fax: (613) 990-6451.

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# Ode to Happiness: Afternoon Walk in Mer Bleue

*Jeanne A. Currie*

The afternoon is wet, cool and cloudy  
My chosen path winds long, narrow and slippery  
Trees stand without leaves; all bare and lonely,  
Waiting

Face to face with a darkening winter sky  
Its weight upon my shoulders; I'm not sure why  
A solitary bird takes wing with a sigh,  
Calling

Profound stillness and peace envelope me  
No barking dog, human voice, grouse or chickadee  
Break the silence or sing a melody,  
Listening

Yet I am comforted by this world of silence  
And by a forlorn landscape without defence  
Because in this moment, I feel your presence,  
Loving

---

# Changes Natural and Normal: 25 Years in Stony Swamp

*Robert E. Lee*



*Sarsaparilla Trail Pond, June 1973.*

When, as a member of the Macoun Field Club, I reached high-school age, I was introduced to a mile-wide section of Stony Swamp that I would ever after know as our “Study Area.” The year was 1970, and vividly I remember my first wanderings there. It was autumn and migrating birds flitted through the undergrowth. Among the freshly fallen leaves of a hardwood forest I found something to eat – and discovered for myself that there was such a thing as a *Bitternut Hickory* – a taste that lingers in my mind to this day.

My fellow “Macouners” and I explored every corner of the landscape as if we had a mission to do so. All through our school years, we laboured to observe and record everything of interest. Working from aerial photographs, we prepared a vegetation map. We listed birds, identified algae, analyzed habitats– and shared our findings with each other.

To get into our Study Area, we'd walk up a long, windswept farm lane, away from the outskirts of Bells Corners, past empty farm buildings and pastures. To either side, Meadowlarks sang as if their world would go on forever, and Upland Sandpipers alighted with quivering wings held high. Looking back from the last rise of land, the city seemed small and far away.

From there, we'd fan out into a mosaic of marshes, fields, and second-growth forests. In winter I might join a group of Macoun Club snowshoers as they plodded up the frozen waterways, or else ski alone, criss-crossing the wood-



*Bruce Lee, lone skier, 1972.*

lands without ever seeing anyone's tracks but my own. Bands of curious chickadees would come flocking around and then, not recognizing the sunflower seeds I was offering, pass on, leaving my outstretched hand growing numb.

With the coming of spring, the beaver ponds shone blue and sparkled in the sunlight, and were alive with the weird hooting of Pied-billed Grebes and twittering of Tree Swallows. Forest had been flooded as well as farm, and all sorts of birds, from House Wrens to Wood Ducks, now nested in the drowned trees.

On land, Dutch Elm Disease was sweeping the countryside. In 1971 government workers cut great numbers of them for salvage. I remember piles of logs heaped higher than a man along the Study Area roads – fleeting testament to the important place these now searee trees had held. For years afterward wood-



peckers and squirrels raised families in those that still stood, bare of bark and limbless.

A chain-link fence abruptly went up along our northeastern boundary, serving notice that the city would eventually claim all the open land beyond it. Ambitious skiers cut trails through trackless places, and by 1973 the winter woods knew the clack and clatter of much fancier equipment than mine. Summer brought its own invasions. One day I was drifting about the big pond in a canoe, lying back with my feet up, when I bumped into something solid. I opened my eyes and was startled to behold a curious family of five peering down at me. The Sarsaparilla Trail had arrived, complete with observation dock.

No less a part of these changes than anyone else, we Macouners established our own self-interpreting nature trail, complete with signposts and guidebook for the public.

Together, we learned as we went, from each other and from doing. And then we were off to university, to work, to other lives. Ten years passed, during which I kept up only a casual acquaintance with my old Study Area.



*June 1987, Pond V. Susi Wolf, Heather Hunt, Andrea Wolfson & Jason Paterson.*

Finally I made my return, now as a leader of the Macoun Field Club, taking into the very same woods children a generation removed from those of us who had felt like explorers. The old farm lane leading up the slope had been obliterated by a suburban maze, while within the Greenbelt fence tall pine plan-

tations cast a deep gloom where birds with quivering wings once pranced in sunshine. The nature trail we built has vanished under a host of fallen trees and thickets of maple sprouts.

The whole place is more subtly altered, too. There is a coarse growth of Purple Loosestrife in the marshes, and Alder Buckthorn in the seedling stage invades the maple woods. While once I could immerse myself in a habitat of northern affinities, sniff crushed wintergreen leaves, and dream myself into another world, the city is crowding in. All day long the forest rings with the noise of traffic and construction. Where I, with notebook and observant eye have walked so much alone, the trails abound with self-absorbed joggers and mountain-bikers.

This, then, sandwiched between Bells Corners and Bridlewood, is the wild world as today's "Macouners" know it. Instead of marginal farmland going back to nature, it is nature on the retreat. Yet for them the beaver still slaps its tail as wildly, the cedar swamps brood in mystery, and a world of nature lies waiting for discovery.

The pattern of natural things has changed, and now that, too, is part of our study. Together the new Macoun members and I walk beneath tall Red Pines, row on row, stopping to count whorls of branches or growth rings in stumps, and by arithmetic calculate the age of the plantation. But I alone remember the last Savannah Sparrows that sang so lightly there, and following them, the Field Sparrows that nested among the waist-high pines. And then how those young trees grew so thickly as to become practically impenetrable – whole sections of the Study Area thus being rendered inaccessible for many long years.

Pushing as close as children dare to the water, they see wavelets lapping over terrestrial lichens on a half-submerged boulder. That tells us the beaver pond never stood quite so high before. But I have watched these ponds since they, too, were young, and have seen the level rise and fall as much as half-a-meter, and rise again. It depends on the state of the beaver dams, I explain. Beaver not only move their dwelling place from lodge to lodge, but sometimes from one pond to another, leaving the old one to leak away out of neglect. Yet they have always come back to restore their dams, and in the long run, their ponds appear pretty much the same.

After a quarter century, however, most of the drowned timber, like the bounty of dead elms on land, has fallen because of rot, so birds have far fewer holes to nest in. But an optimist would note that that also means more logs for turtles to sun upon.

With delight we feed the Study Area chickadees, which in some places are so conditioned to greediness that they alight on cookies and muffins halfway to

the mouth. It is indeed a thrill for a child to have a wild bird eat from the hand – but I must admit I have reservations about people setting up so many feeders in the woods. I wonder if there's a wild chickadee left.

Other shifts in the scheme of things I can't explain. In the 1970's, for instance, a slap of the paddle in autumn would bring a roar of wings as five or six hundred Black Ducks and Mallards sprang into the air. Two decades later, not only have the Blacks been overwhelmed by the Mallards; they both have been replaced here by Canada Geese that pile into the ponds, flock upon clamouring flock, until my counting surpasses a thousand birds.

Birds have wings and may go as they please, but who brought the geese to Ottawa? Then again, it is in the nature of growing trees to crowd out the sun – does it matter if the species and the spacing are the product of someone's choosing? Old trees die, to be sure, but perhaps death comes sooner to a tree made vulnerable by acid rain.



*November 1992–Macoun Field Club outing.*

And what of the times to come? Will the children of today, who can only take the world as they find it, be able to tell the difference between the changes that are normal and natural, and those that cry out a warning? I wonder if any of us can. ▢

---

# Life Cycles: One Year in the Life of a Weasel

*Isabelle Nicol*



Throughout the night, thick moisture-laden snow kept falling, wind-driven cascades, heavy and wet. Coating everything it touched, the snow stuck in great white clumps to the green plumes of the conifers, the bare branches of the hardwoods, and plastered itself against the sides of the tree trunks. Flinging the snow in extravagant sheets, the wind ridged the hillocks in deep white drifts, and the falling temperature crusted icy ripples along the valley's floor.

At dawn the storm moved to the south, the tail of the wind scattering diamonds in the cold morning air. Amongst the trees of a purple shadowed forest, deep down in the conifers, coal black eyes in a small triangular face suddenly emerged above a log. The boldness and intensity of the animal's gaze bode ill for the small creatures of the forest floor. So, too, did the sinuous lithe form as it undulated around and under logs and shrubs in tireless pursuit of its prey. Its white winter coat helped conceal it against the snowy landscape that cold February morning; its black eyes and black tipped tail blended within dark shadows.

In the predawn darkness, the weasel moved along a whitened forest corridor when he caught the scent of a hare. He popped up alongside some deadfalls. His nostrils twitched.

Under the spreading branches of a nearby juniper, a snowshoe hare stiffened in fear. He had become aware of the tiny presence moving along his back trail from the log where he had just so recently sheltered. Having been born not far from this very place late in the summer, he was still a young hare but his innate instinct told him this was no ordinary animal. He sensed the relentless nature of the creature before he saw it, and his heart began a fearful tattoo.

As the weasel drew nearer, the hare tensed, then suddenly burst from cover, leaping wildly along one of the many runways that dissected the undergrowth. The weasel jumped the runway and leapt at the hare, clinging to its shoulder, biting deeply into the thick fur behind its ear. As its teeth clamped into the base of the hare's skull, the weasel's small body was tossed from side to side by the mad rush of the wildly fleeing animal. With a powerful bite, sharp canine teeth pierced the neck, the hare fell onto its side, its hind legs thrashing.

Some time later the weasel, having quenched its thirst with the warm blood of its victim, and having eaten into the upper body, consuming fur along with skin and parts of the heart and liver, moved off silently towards its lair, a slender double tracked gait leaving telltale marks of its wanderings.

Throughout that cold winter, as one frosty day blended into another, the slender body of the small weasel would often burrow, then bound through the snow in seeming playfulness, but more often with an intensity of purpose. He would jump down the ventilation shafts of the runways belonging to the voles and mice living on the forest floor. To these little beasts, his footfalls were perceived as warning vibrations transmitted through the snow, and the tiny predator would scatter icy crystals in tinkling showers as he pursued the small animals in their underground network of tunnels.

One day as he bounded around clumps of weeds and over fallen trees, the weasel suddenly dove into a hole made by an old female red squirrel living in the area. At that moment, the squirrel had just happened to run in at the other end. Seconds passed. Suddenly, the squirrel shot out of the tunnel, followed by the weasel. But the irascible, short-tempered squirrel, not to be ousted so easily, ran back and the two fought in the opening of the tunnel. A see-sawing battle ensued, each alternately attacking with reckless ferocity, then withdrawing, then resuming battle. But just as quickly as it had happened, the encounter seemingly dissolved, and the tiny weasel mysteriously disappeared.

Not long after, the weasel caught and killed a red squirrel that lived in the cedar woods next to a swamp. Early one morning, while still dark, he climbed a cedar in pursuit of purple finches sheltering within the leafy boughs. Cautiously, toes tipped with sharp claws, he climbed branch by branch. The sleepy birds,

suddenly aware of the stealthy intruder, exploded in a squawking, noisy flock, scattering in every direction. Almost simultaneously, a red squirrel, curled up in an abandoned woodpecker hole, wakened to the tumult and looked out. The weasel attacked and the two animals fell from the tree seven feet to the snow. Matched in fury and determination, they fought amongst the deadfalls. The squirrel shrieked its protest in rage and fury, teeth flashing. Coiling itself around the squirrel's body, and shifting his hold, the weasel aimed for the base of the squirrel's skull. Though the squirrel was bigger, the weasel was faster, and finally executed the fatal puncture. In the dark shadow of a fallen pine, he ate ravenously, and quickly filled his stomach. He then licked his chops, wet his front paws and cleaned his face, and then carefully began to lick blood stains from his upper body.

The weasel's mother had borne him early in the spring of that year in a subterranean nest under a rocky ledge. The previous tenant, still in residence when she popped in, met with a quick demise, became a meal, and the furry remains were put to use, refurbishing the somewhat cold and barren hollow. She continued to add to her nest the soft fur from several mouse meals. This provided a warm bed that damp early spring for her soon to be born family – the young male, his four sisters and one brother. Like his brother and sisters, his pink, elongated body developed rather slowly at first. His fur began to come in as a mane along the back of his neck, and slowly spread across the rest of his back, legs, and belly.

One day, his eyes opened to the twilight world of the den, redolent with strong musky odours. He was able to see and smell the warm forms of his siblings. They were extremely lively youngsters as they grew, scambling about their den, chewing upon the carcasses of the mice that their mother brought, and playfully chewing one another with sharp tiny teeth. Their slim forms leapt and zig-zagged, coiling and springing upon one another, until finally, tiring of play, the six young weasels would end up in a twined, snoozing heap.

The weasel's mother, besides being a good provider, was also courageous. She would have fought to the death for her family. Once, when the old mongrel dog which lived at the farm in the valley came too close to her den, she quickly moved them, one by one, to safety by mouth, even though they were now almost as big as she.

It was not long before the mother weasel was leading her little pack on foraging expeditions. Travelling in single file, in tight formation close to the ground, their movement and undulating glide resembled that of a snake moving in the dark under-story of the forest.

One pre-dawn morning as the mother weasel was leading her family home, she suddenly pulled herself up, dark eyes glistening with excitement as she scanned the slope. Her long, sinuous neck weaved slowly as her keen nose delicately sifted the incoming scent on the cool morning breeze. She then bounded forward, her nose following an invisible trail, her six young undulating closely behind. Then she heard movement and paused. A white-footed mouse, backed against the trunk of a tree, trembled, held spellbound in the dark gaze of the weasel. Seemingly sapped of its will, the little mouse stood transfixed, although it could have easily outrun the relatively slow weasel. And it was often so that the sinuous movement, weaving and bobbing of a weasel, exuded an aura, an entrancing hypnotic effect upon its prey.

The mother weasel launched herself at the small animal, slender forelegs gripping the white-foot's body. Her long sharp canines sank into the mouse's throat, unerringly centred upon and piercing the jugular vein. The blood flowed into her mouth, and she drank greedily as the mouse died. A moment later the small victim was almost bled dry. Now she called her little ones to the feast. A tiny rustle and squeak nearby alerted her and her sinuous lope carried her to where a shrew was nosing through the underbrush, irresistibly drawn to the smell of blood. Again she struck and it, too, became a part of the feast.

That summer, the small male weasel, now on his own, did much exploring of holes and dens, his curiosity and rapacious appetite carrying him through meadows and hay fields, stream and marsh edges, weed patches and woodlots. He was a noisy explorer, hunting in dry vegetation and bounding amid the leaves and rushes and weeds. He could be circumspect in the presence of his enemies but was often bold and noisy. It was a wonder that he and his kin escaped death as often as they did, for the owls and hawks did not mind his rank flesh, and the foxes could make short work of him when hard pressed by hunger.

In his wanderings, the weasel would find the nests of mice and voles and eat their young. He would also harry ground-nesting birds and steal their eggs. At times, creeping as close as he dared to a group of birds on the forest floor, the weasel would begin cavorting about, rolling around, twisting and turning in a beguiling manner, then boldly and cockily jumping up into the air several times,





before resuming his twisting and rolling amongst the vegetation. Nervously, but their curiosity aroused, the birds would slowly move closer to the weasel. The weasel, constantly active, kept his eyes fixed on the one bird he had already singled out. The inquisitive bird drew nearer, charmed by the weasel's antics, until, finally, the weasel would suddenly stop, and spring upon its startled victim.

One day he came upon a large garter snake. Sensing the weasel's presence, the snake fled but the weasel followed. Pursuing his intended victim, the weasel's short legs kept him from moving speedily but he had no need for speed for it was as though he were tethered to the fleeing snake. The snake, in its panic, released small amounts of fluid, leaving an unmistakable, rank trail as obvious to the weasel as a line drawn in the soil.

Slithering over the decaying leaves, the snake tried to dodge its pursuer. But the weasel closed in, and its canines caught the snake in a death-grip behind the head. The snake writhed in agony, leaking evil smelling fluid from its vent onto the fallen leaves, curling and twisting its body in a desperate effort to loosen the hold of the weasel. The weasel was pulled about, but held on, its canines biting savagely and deeply into the vulnerable spine. Finally, in one final crunch, the canines of the weasel met in the snake's neck. Eating but a small portion of the snake's body, the tiny predator soon turned away and headed for a craggy boulder under which he had his den.

That same day, one of his sisters died. The Red-tailed Hawks that ruled the sky by day, and flew above her territory, were aware of the pattern of her comings and goings. And this day, as she swiftly made her way back to her den, the large female hawk, with a high-pitched 'kee-yerrrk,' lifted from her nest, circled, then homed in on the small brown form. The weasel frantically tried to get away as



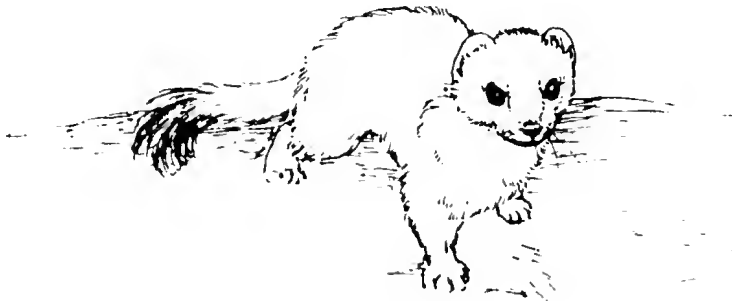
the sound of air rushing through pinioned feathers closed in. She felt piercing pain as curved claws cut through her flesh. A numbing sensation spread from her broken backbone – overtaking her senses, and the scent glands at the base of her tail released a strong musky fluid. In life she would have released the overpowering smell as a defense against enemies. But now she knew no more.

One evening in late autumn, the weasel was loping past a pond in which a muskrat was eating a cattail stalk, still juicy and tender. The weasel approached warily for he remembered another time that summer, and another muskrat. He still bore a scar on his flank from the previous encounter. But hunger now drove him and he advanced slowly, ever closer. Then with a quick bounce and a pounce he was upon the muskrat, slashing, biting, his sharp teeth sinking into the neck of the muskrat. This time his sharp canines found their mark. Blood splattered the ground as the weasel pulled the muskrat up the bank to an overhanging ledge. Soon the hunger in his belly was appeased.

As the days continued to shorten and the nights took on a sharp frostiness, the little weasel's short, dense fur with its long glistening guard hairs changed. In a matter of weeks the fur turned from a brownish red to a thick, glistening white pelage, all except for a black tip at the end of his tail. And the soles of his tiny feet become heavily furred against the intense cold to come.

And now, it was late February. Having just killed and eaten the squirrel, the weasel finished his toilet, his white vest immaculately clean, and turned and began to move towards his den. But he failed to see another hunter about this early winter morning. On silent wings, a Great Horned Owl slowly dropped towards him. The weasel, suddenly aware, jumped at his assailant and desperately locked his teeth within the feathered breast of the bird. The owl, snapping at the small animal, tore at its body and the weasel died instantly.

The Great Horned Owl would carry, attached to its breast for some time to come, the skull and clenched teeth of a tiny weasel, a symbol of an animal which had died as fiercely as it had lived.□



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# Aylmer's Natural Landscapes

*Ian Huggett*

Little was known about Aylmer's natural areas until about five years ago when a few of us discovered several interesting places which had escaped the forces of degradation. In this article I will discuss some of those areas, particularly those with significant natural communities and landform associations which are high ranking according to the following criteria:

- high biodiversity (richness of animal and plant species),
- harbour significant species (rare or endangered),
- representative of particular community or vegetative landform,
- quality of community associations (including level of disturbance and sensitivity or ability to recover quickly from disturbance,
- critical wildlife habitat.

## Champlain Pine Forest

**Location:** Bordered by Pink Road (to the north), Boucher and Vanier Roads (to the west and east) and by the Aylmer\Hull municipal boundaries.

200 m N.W. of De Brouage Street, Champlain Park residential sector, Zone 443-A, Lot 14A, approximately 5.26 ha (13 acres) (before highway installed).

**Description:** Representative example of original White Pine ecosystem.

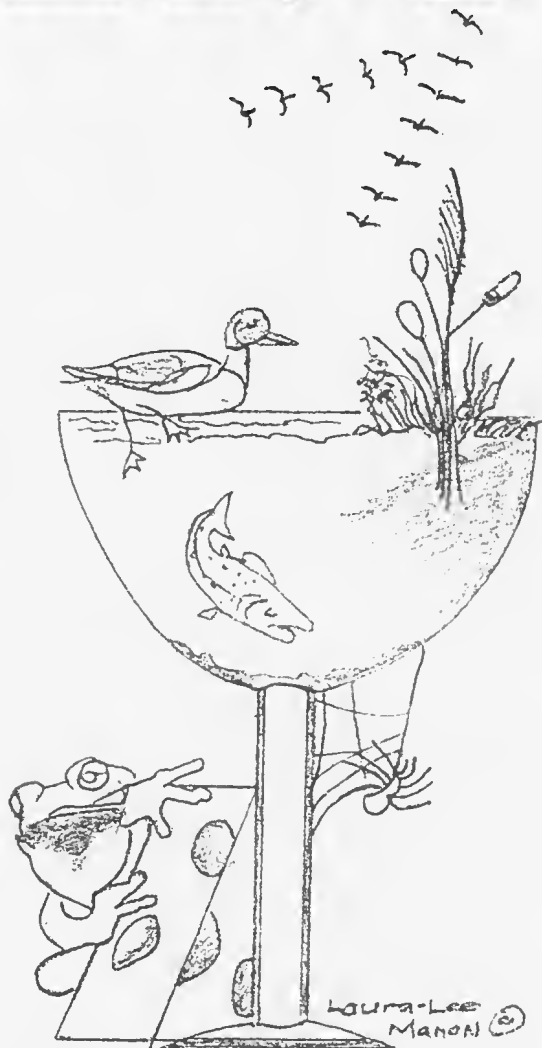
**Functions:** Micro-habitat for species dependent upon "old growth" (mature) forest.  
Genetic blueprint for silvicultural research.  
Historical record of the region's original landscape.

**Threats:** Remnant 'forest' susceptible to windthrow, salt damage to younger trees from traffic, change in species composition of ground flora (due to increased light penetration).  
Increased predation and parasitism of nesting birds and small mammals due to an increase in forest edge (ecotone) and reduction of safer 'core' areas.

**Zoning:** Agricultural; being reclassified residential.



# OFNC S



PLACE: Unitarian Church Hall  
30 Cleary Street  
#2 and #18 Buses stop at Cleary Street and Richmond Road

RESERVATIONS: To order tickets, fill in the order form and send it along with remittance before **April 15** to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
c/o Ellaine Dickson  
2037 Honeywell Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7

# Soirée

## Wine & Cheese Party

Friday, April 29, 1995, 7:30 p.m.

- selection of wines   ■ cheese & crackers   ■ tea & coffee
- non-alcoholic punch   ■ fruit

Help make this another festive evening by coming to our annual party and mingling with fellow naturalists.

Join us in honoring The Member of the Year and recipients of the Service Award, Anne Hanes Natural History Award, Conservation Awards and the President's Prize.

Members are invited to exhibit photographic prints and original art on a natural history theme. The best overall colour or B. & W. photograph will be selected by ballot and a prize awarded to the lucky winner.

Mount display items for easy handling and bring them to the Unitarian Church between 4 and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29th. Everything is to be taken home at the end of the evening. To reserve exhibition space and for further information contact Philip Martin (729-3218).

Prizes will also be awarded for the best Macoun Field Club displays. Children (primary or high school) who are OFNC members but not Macoun Field Club members are also encouraged to compete.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to the OFNC Annual Soirée at \$8.00 (\$3.50 for students under 18) per person. Enclosed please find my cheque or money order for \$ .....



The Champlain forest contained some of western Quebec's oldest and tallest White Pines (*Pinus strobus*). Characteristic of endangered 'old growth' forests, this 5.26 ha (13-acres) stand had two distinct canopy layers: a mature under-story of Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) growing in the shadow of towering, 42 m ancient White Pines.

Pines 250 years old with a d.b.h. (diameter at breast height) of a meter, were cut in June 1992 to accommodate the McConnell-Laramée Autoroute.

The pine forest's existence was known to relatively few people, but merely two weeks before its demise, citizens by the thousands entered the secluded forest to catch a final glimpse of this magnificent historical living relic.

Resident Martin M. Pagnan best summed up the tragedy in a letter to the Ottawa Citizen:

"The politicians, judges and bureaucrats have been proud to demonstrate their ignorance about such matters. They are specialists in the easy 'sciences' – pouring asphalt, using legal muscle and redistributing our wealth. They have no appreciation for what was lost. They are a dying breed who will go down in history as the great destroyers whose damage took centuries to undo."

Little remains of the original forest. A handful of trees, prone to windthrow, tower above a forest floor now invaded by shade-intolerant weeds. A four-lane highway cuts through the middle of these 5.26 ha, destroying any serenity this spot once had.

### **Boucher Forest**

**Location:** A 2 km<sup>2</sup> landscape bordered by Boucher, McConnell, Kock and Vanier Roads. Zones 439-H, 459-H, 430-I, 429-C.

**Description:** The largest contiguous undisturbed landscape in Aylmer.

**Functions:** Provides shelter for deer and birds wintering in the Outaouais. Provides nesting habitat for bird species normally associated with more northern boreal forests. Exceptional representation of a diverse mosaic of habitat types, including a large cattail marsh, Bitternut Hickory and White Walnut forest, Sugar Maple bush, provincially rare hybrid ferns, and uncommon vegetation complexes.



*Dan Brunton in Boucher Forest. Photo by Ian Huggett.*

**Threats:** Future Deschênes Autoroute and highway enhancement corridor.  
Residential and industrial development.  
Illegal forest clearing by locals selling trees for cord wood.  
Intrusive high-impact motorized use of recreational ATV's and dirt-bikes.

**Zoning:** Residential\commercial\industrial.

Comparable in size and biodiversity to Nepean's Stony Swamp Conservation Area, Boucher Forest contains outstanding historical, ecological, educational, and cultural potential.

This forest includes the largest and densest stand of Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) and White Walnut (*Juglans cinerea*) in the National Capital Region.



Just south of this forest is Aylmer's largest cattail marsh, 0.4 km long. So far it has resisted the intrusion of Purple Loosestrife and provides exceptional habitat for spring populations of amphibians and waterfowl.

A mature forest area of Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) is complemented by a heritage farm off Vanier Road. It is hoped that this area's unique natural attributes will be capitalized upon by city planners to transform the farm into a nature interpretation centre surrounded by recreational pathways within the 2 km<sup>2</sup> forest.

### Shagbark Hickory

**Location:** In the Deschênes sector, along the waterfront south of Lamoureux Street, between Papineau Street and Vanier Road. Zone 341-H, Lots 16-D and 17-A.

**Description:** A local stand of mature Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) which is a remnant species of the Carolinian Forest and is very rare at this latitude.

**Threats:** Vandalism and destruction by locals using bark and limbs for campfires.  
Intrusive high-impact use by automobiles, dirt-bikes and snowmobiles.  
Summer use as a launching place for boats.  
Proposed Deschênes Autoroute and highway enhancement corridor.  
Proposed Deschênes-Britannia Bridge.

**Zoning:** Parkland (NCC)

The Shagbark Hickory is a handsome tree, often reaching 30 m in height, with lustrous foliage. The tree gets its name from the cracking of older bark into vertical, curved plates, attached to the trunk at their top or their middle, giving the tree a shaggy appearance. On younger trees the bark is smooth.

Shagbark Hickory is native to the southeastern United States. The local forest (some 30 trees have been counted) is a remnant species of the Carolinian Forest.

The nuts of this species are difficult to extract but are a favourite food of such birds as woodpeckers, chickadees, warblers, Northern Cardinals, Goldfinches and Pine Siskins, as well as chipmunks and squirrels.

The Shagbark Hickory thrives on low hillsides and in the rich, moist soil of waterfronts and floodplains.

### **Pink Road Alvar**

- Location:** Southwest quarter of Cook, Pink, Perry and Klock Roads, approximately 12 ha (30 acres) in size. Zone 444-A, Lots 25-B, 24-A, 24-B.
- Description:** Seasonally flooded limestone flats left over when the Champlain Sea receded 8,000 to 9,000 years ago.
- Functions:** A rare and unusual landform which provides a substrate for rare vegetation and insect communities.
- Threats:** Introduction of non-native flora.  
Attempts at conversion into pasture for cattle.  
Clearing of adjacent cedar buffer strip exposing it to high-impact recreational use by ATV's etc.
- Zoning:** Agricultural.

This alvar represents the first and possibly only such formation in the province of Quebec.\*

Even before the arrival of the settlers, while most of the continent was covered by coniferous forests, alvars existed as permanently open meadows. These clearings were maintained naturally by summer drought, spring flooding and periodic fires.

Specialized plants, adapted to tolerate wide fluctuations in temperature and moisture regimes, have evolved to survive on alvars.

Summer surface temperatures reach a staggering 60°C, while 2-3 cm of water submerges the same area each spring.

Rare plants such as Philadelphia Witch Grass and Ensheathed Dropseed Grass survive here but are unsuccessful at competing under more temperate and stable conditions where most other plants thrive. Equally bizarre insects, some still undescribed, complement the alvar vegetation.

\* See Huggett, Ian. 1993. The Discovery of Alvars at Aylmer. *Trail & Landscape* 27(2): 55-57.



*Blueberry Point. Photo by Ian Huggett.*

### **Blueberry Point Pine Forest**

**Location:** Southern extension of Pine Street in Wychwood.  
Zone 105-H, Lot 11.

**Description:** 5 ha (12.5 acres), including last pine stand, bordering a navigational watercourse in the urban Outaouais.

**Threats:** Continued fragmentation by subdivision.  
Clearing and backfilling of floodplain waterfront corridor.  
Uncontrolled public encroachment.

**Zoning:** 4.6 ha (11.4 acres) residential;  
0.4 ha (1.1 acres) municipally zoned "conservation area."\*

This waterfront pinery was originally settled by Thomas Brigham who married Abigail, the third child of Hull's founder, Philemon Wright. Until September 1989, the estate was handed down to, and owned, by eight members of the Brigham\Bowie family.

\* See Huggett, I.C. 1992. Last Stand. *Trail & Landscape* 26(1): 8-12.

Public attention focused on the estate's pines which has overshadowed a less conspicuous but more significant aspect of the forest's composition. The abundance of White Oak (*Quercus alba*) in combination with Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) render this the richest forest community type in the province.

The site's dry soil on limestone and moraine harbours over 54 species of vascular plants, four of which are provincially rare. The semi-open forest canopy is partly responsible for this plant diversity.

With over 23 species of birds observed regularly on the property (including nesting Cooper's Hawks in 1989), the estate's ecological significance is in stark contrast to the surrounding residential sector.

It is recommended that the municipality enter into a Land Stewardship Agreement with the current landowners in order to provide protected status to the remaining forest.

Although much of these lands are privately owned, public access is seldom challenged. The owners may be waiting for the correct economic climate for development, but in the meantime the land, and all that is associated with it, is allowed to flourish; natural processes continue unabated.

There is growing public pressure to preserve these sites, however, Aylmer's Council and urban planners continue to embrace the draconian belief that the private landowner's desires transcend all other societal values. In a finite world with an ever increasing population, such a philosophy cannot continue.

If individual landowner's rights preclude the collective rights of the community (human and nonhuman included) then Aylmer's forests will continue to be demolished by the chainsaw.

The author wishes to thank and acknowledge the assistance of Dan Brunton, Jacques Cayouette, Jean Dubois and Daniel Gagnon.

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# The Madawaska Highlands Land Use Planning Process

*Scott Findlay, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ottawa Valley Chapter  
Caroline Schultz, Canadian Nature Federation*

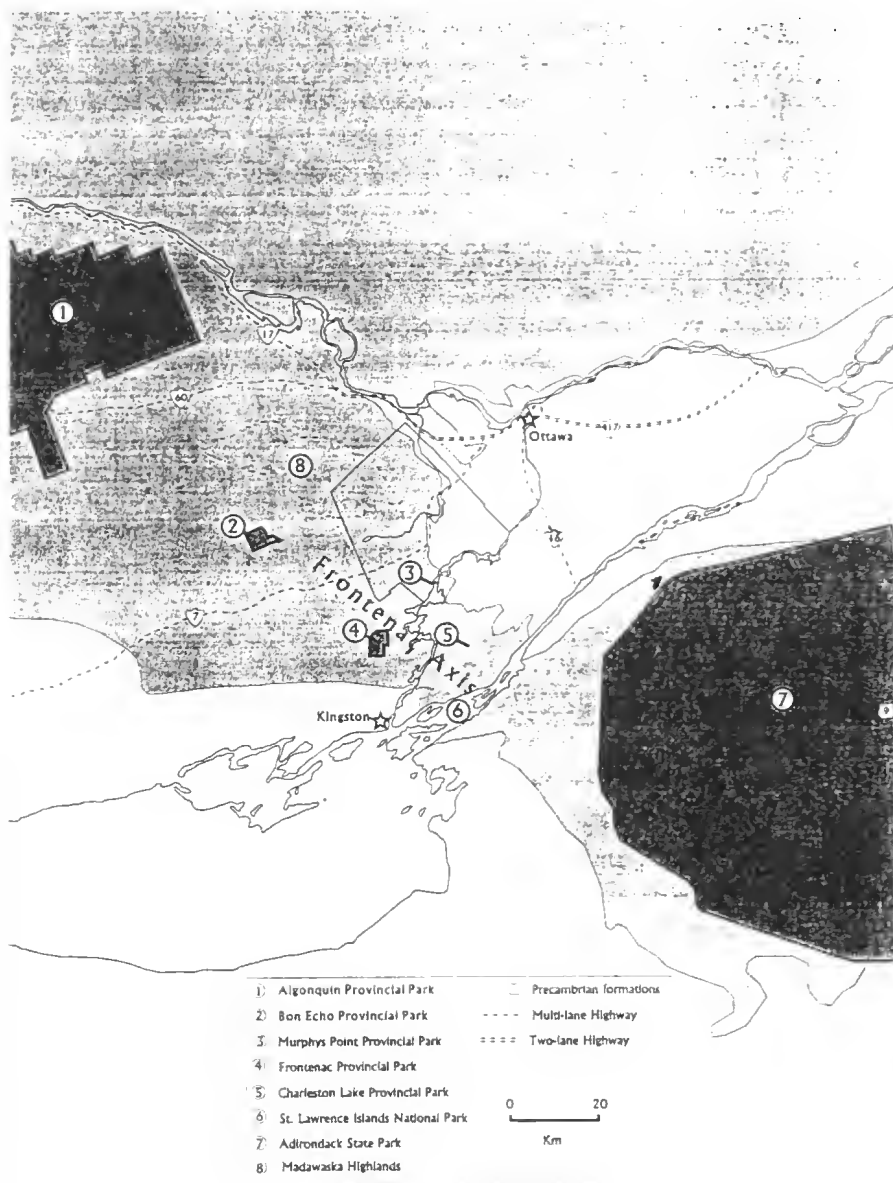
## Introduction

The Madawaska Highlands, located some 80 km west of Ottawa, is the last remaining large, relatively unfragmented and undisturbed semi-wilderness region in southeastern Ontario. As a consequence, it has been targeted by organizations like the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for the establishment of new protected areas, most recently under the auspices of the WWF's Endangered Spaces campaign. The area is of concern not only because of its relatively intact character and natural heritage, but also because it occupies a strategic position along the Frontenac Axis between Algonquin Park to the northwest and Adirondack State Park (New York) to the southeast (*Figure 1*).

In 1988, the Ottawa Valley chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society submitted a proposal to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources which called for the establishment of a Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust (CPAWS, 1988). The proposal included a number of recommendations which, if implemented, would (at least in the Society's view) help preserve the wilderness character of the region. The proposal caused great furor among local residents as well as hunters, anglers and outdoor vehicle enthusiasts, since it called for some restrictions on both traditional recreational and economic (principally logging and mining) activities in the area. Despite its good intentions, the trust proposal further polarized what were perceived as two factions: "local residents" versus "non-local preservationists."

Nonetheless, the proposal and subsequent activity by conservation organizations, as well as their opponents, convinced the Ministry of Natural Resources that indeed there was a problem that needed to be resolved. Consequently, the Minister, Howard Hampton, announced that his ministry would undertake the creation and implementation of a Madawaska Highlands Land Use Plan, which would apply to the Crown Lands shown in *Figure 2*. The plan would have three major objectives (OMNR, 1994):

- To resolve existing land use conflicts within the area and to establish a plan for future use of Crown Lands;



*Figure 1. Protected areas along the Frontenac Axis. Preserved wilderness areas in the Madawaska Highlands would constitute an important stepping stone along the corridor joining two larger wilderness areas, Algonquin Park in the northwest and Adirondack Park to the southeast. This map is from a forthcoming book by Dr. Paul Keddy of the Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, on the natural history of Lanark County.*



Figure 2. The Madawaska Highlands planning area (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1994)

- To ensure continuing availability of all natural resources, on a sustainable basis, to a broad spectrum of resource users;
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance.

Moreover, these objectives are to be achieved in a manner that:

- Ensures that current levels of biodiversity are sustained;
- Involves the development of partnerships in resource management;
- Leads to improved resource and user knowledge;
- Assigns appropriate values to all resources.

### **The Public Advisory Committee**

To assist in the planning process, the Ministry appointed a fourteen-member Public Advisory Committee which comprised representatives of wilderness and naturalist groups (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Canadian Nature Federation, Rideau Valley Field Naturalists), two of the major timber interests in the region, tourist operators, local business interests and municipal politicians, as well as representatives of several concerned citizens groups. The Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the views of the full range of stakeholders are adequately represented and taken into consideration. More specifically, the committee hopes to be able to reach consensus on at least some of the issues described below, and in so doing, make recommendations to the Minister concerning both the Land Use Plan itself and its implementation.

### **The Issues**

A major impediment to the process has been, and continues to be, mistrust of both the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Public Advisory Committee. Much of the early activities of the committee were devoted not to formulating a Land Use Plan but rather to trying to stem the flood of misinformation, disinformation and innuendo that has marred the process from its inception. Unsubstantiated allegations of hidden agendas and covert behind-the-scenes deals flew fast and furious during the early stages, promulgated primarily by those who feel that the best planning process is no process at all. A series of public information sessions, tabloids and press releases by both the advisory committee and the ministry have alleviated some public concerns, but at the time of this writing, there is still considerable scepticism and antagonism.

Also contributing to an unsettled climate is the fact that the crown lands in question are subject to a land claim by First Nations peoples. The First Nations community declined to participate in the planning process, arguing



that participation might prejudice their land claims negotiations. While understandable, their non-participation is unfortunate, since it means that the views of an important constituency are not formally represented. Nevertheless, we hope that the results of the planning process will be of use to whomever ultimately owns and manages the lands in question.

An unsettled climate notwithstanding, both the ministry and the advisory committee have made progress towards the objectives outlined above. From the very beginning it was clear that there are several issues of concern:

**1. ANSIs.** ANSIs are Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest. The provincial ANSI program is designed to identify and protect such areas. Within the planning region, eight candidate ANSIs have been identified and delineated. From his analysis of these candidate ANSIs, Dr. William Crins, Regional Ecologist, concluded that five of the eight warranted "provincially significant" status, and will be designated; three are not, in his view, provincially significant, and therefore will not be designated as ANSIs.

The ANSIs, perhaps more than any other issue, have been responsible for much of the furor surrounding the planning process. Many people viewed (and continue to view) ANSIs as threats to traditional uses of the land, i.e. areas in which there would be no hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling or ATV use, as well as no logging, mining or other economic activities. This erroneous perception of ANSIs spawned the "No ANSI" position which still has considerable currency in the region.

At present, the Ministry and the advisory committee are reviewing a set of management options for each of the five aforementioned ANSIs. These options differ with respect to the ANSI boundaries themselves, the designation of different land-use zones within each ANSI, and the specification of the types of activities (recreational or economic) permitted in each zone. A description of these options can be obtained from OMNR District Offices in Bancroft or Pembroke, or from the Mazinaw and Lanark Area Offices.

**2. Non-ANSI Crown Lands.** With respect to non-ANSI Crown Lands, there are a host of public concerns; a few of the more pressing issues are listed below:

**Logging.** The timber industry has traditionally been the economic base of the Highlands area. Licensed operators in the planning region want a plan that provides a fixed and stable land-base for timber operations. Cottagers and outdoor recreationists are concerned with noise and the effects of logging on wilderness aesthetics, while conservationists worry about the impact of forestry operations on wildlife habitat and biodiversity, as well as increased accessibility from construction of logging roads.

**Mining.** Mining interests are concerned about restrictions in the land base available for leases and claim staking, as well as the potential impacts on current leases. Conservationists are concerned about the impacts of mining operations on wildlife habitat, and in particular, the potential contribution of mine access roads and related activities to isolation and fragmentation of wildlife populations.

**Hunting.** Hunting is a traditional and popular recreational activity in the Highlands. Many hunters are concerned that the land use plan will result in lands being withdrawn from hunting, particularly those who lease Crown Land recreation (hunt) camps and those with camps on private lands, as well as tourist operators to whom hunting and related activities provide a significant income. On the other side of the fence, some users feel very strongly that their enjoyment of the landscape is dramatically reduced by hunting activities in the fall, and that there should be areas in which hunting is reduced or eliminated.

**Fishing.** Fishing is also a traditional recreational activity in the Highlands and a significant source of income for many local tourist operators. Like hunting, the public's views span the entire spectrum, some favouring development of more opportunities for angling, others favouring more restrictions. Also of concern is the issue of fish stocking. Some users feel that stocking programs should be enhanced, while others are concerned about the impacts of stocking on natural populations, particularly of non-game species.

**Access and off-road vehicles.** The issue of access and use of off-road vehicles (snowmobiles and ATVs) is highly contentious. The wilderness character of parts of the Highlands is due, at least in part, to its remoteness. But as with the other issues, opinions differ markedly on the issue of access restrictions. Some users feel that there should be no restrictions on the use of snowmobiles or ATV's anywhere in the planning area, and that new trail networks should be developed. Others feel that off-road vehicles should be permitted, but only on designated trails specifically maintained for these purposes. Still other users, including some hunters, anglers, hikers, skiers and paddlers feel strongly that the presence of motorized vehicles detracts considerably from the wilderness experience. Finally, there are many users who are concerned about the impact of new logging roads, trails, and unrestricted off-road vehicle use on wildlife populations and plant communities.

### **A View From Within**

As members of the advisory committee, we have our own views on what planning principles should be followed in creating a land use plan. These principles are:

**(1) Identified stakeholder groups must be representative of the community at large.** In this case, the lands in question are Crown Lands, owned by the people of Ontario, and administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Stakeholder groups that are (or appear to be) “external” or “non-local” are just as much a part of this community as are local residents; consequently, their views should not be given less weight.

**(2) The principle of multiple use should be the dominant consideration in land use planning.** This means that any objective defined for the planning area which incorporates only a single use, should not be given any credence. On the other hand, multiple use at larger geographical scales (e.g. regions) *need not imply multiple uses at all smaller scales*;

**(3) Land-use planning must be done on at least a regional spatial scale, i.e.** the designation of permitted activities in a particular area must take into account activities in the region as a whole. Planning objectives (“endpoints”) for smaller areas which are not consistent with objectives defined for the region as a whole are inappropriate;

**(4) Land-use planning must be done on an intergenerational time scale.** Conflicts among endpoints often arise from a conflict of temporal scales. Economic planning is usually done on a time horizon of 5-10 years, but the ecological processes that sustain many economic activities may have much longer time scales. This difference between ecological and economic time scales means that socioeconomic rationales for certain endpoints must be examined carefully; endpoints which make good sense over five years may make much less sense over twenty years.

**(5) Planning options should be developed on the basis of some view about what is desirable, not on the basis of what is currently in place.** There is nothing sacred about the type, intensity and tenure of activities currently occurring in the planning region. The simple fact is that if the Land Use Plan prescribes activities that differ from those currently in place, some stakeholder group is likely to suffer, either from reduced economic opportunities, reduced recreational opportunities, a perceived loss in quality of life, etc. On the other hand, other stakeholders will benefit. If planners adopt the principle of minimizing negative impacts on current users, the logical outcome is the “land use plan” that already exists, i.e. the *status quo*. This is inertial, not progressive, planning.

**(6) No planning option, at any spatial or temporal scale, should foreclose on future planning options.** This is perhaps the fundamental principle in land-use planning, but unfortunately the one which is most often violated. To take an obvious example, putting aside relatively unimpacted lands for wilderness (or

semi-wilderness) conservation does not eliminate the possibility of future development of such lands, should their conservation status be changed. On the other hand, not putting aside such lands now means that wilderness conservation, and all its attendant values, has been eliminated from the suite of planning opportunities for the foreseeable future.

Moreover, in our view, a satisfactory Land Use Plan for the Madawaska Highlands must satisfy the following criteria:

**(1) It must contribute to sustaining the ecological health and integrity of Site District 5E-11.** Competing and special interests must be integrated into – and be consistent with – this larger-scale goal.

This principle is of little use on the ground unless “ecological health” and “integrity” are operationalized. For present purposes, we consider the region to be ecologically healthy if (1) the current range of vegetation communities and plant and animal species continues to persist on the landscape (Note that this does not imply “freezing” the landscape in its current state; rather, it implies that the elements that are here today are also here in the future, albeit perhaps in a different configuration.); and (2) elements which were historically present but which are virtually absent from the landscape as a consequence of human activities, are re-introduced. From these definitions, biodiversity is clearly an important component of ecosystem health. So the Land Use Plan must ensure that current levels of biodiversity in the Highlands are maintained, if not enhanced.

**(2) It must provide for substantial wilderness protection.** As noted above, the Madawaska Highlands is the last large remaining semi-wilderness area in southeastern Ontario, and as such, is of considerable wilderness value to the province as a whole. In practice, wilderness protection means that there must be designated areas in the planning region in which only those activities which have a negligible impact on wilderness values should be permitted.

**(3) It must provide the means of assessing and evaluating the impacts of human activities on biodiversity.** Only by quantifying these impacts can we hope to manage the land in a way that will ensure long-term sustainability of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainment of ecosystem health.

**(4) It must, for any designated land unit, provide specific objectives (i.e. endpoints), the rationale underlying these objectives, and performance criteria to evaluate how successful the plan is in achieving them.** Any land-use plan is, at best, an educated guess: from existing information on the causal relationships between human activities and environmental attributes, we

prescribe changes in those activities in order to achieve a specified endpoint. Future reviews of the plan will directly address the issue of how well it achieved its objectives, and answering this question requires specification of both the objectives themselves and the performance evaluation criteria.

**(5) It must, for any designated piece of land, specify a period of tenure,** i.e. a period of time by which the plan must be re-evaluated according to the objectives and performance criteria specified in (4) above. The period of tenure will vary from unit to unit, depending on the type and intensity of permitted activities and the plan objectives. In general, areas with high levels of activities (and therefore, greater risks of negative ecological impacts) should be reviewed more frequently.

It is worth noting that the a tenure period of specified length does not mean that the plan will *change* after the period has elapsed. Indeed, if the plan is a good one, the evaluation will show that in fact objectives are being met, in which case there is no need of modification. In other words, good planning is a way of maximizing long-term stability and constancy; consequently, it should be of concern to all stakeholders.

**(6) It must ensure that all major ecological features currently present on the landscape are adequately represented.** The primary objective of sustaining long-term ecological health at the regional level is unlikely to be achieved unless all significant elements are adequately represented now. This means that single exemplars of significant features cannot be assumed to be sufficient, unless they are shown to be inured to human activities on the landscape.

### Summary

In the past, public participation in land use planning has usually consisted of comments on draft plans produced by government experts or hired consultants. But if plans are to work "on the ground," more active public participation is required. In our view, the equitable resolution of land use conflicts, and particularly the garnering of public support for ecologically sustainable land use planning, depends on active public participation and education right from the outset.

But public participation is a double-edged sword. The early stages of the Madawaska planning process featured plenty of public participation, much of it destructive rather than constructive. Constructive participation requires that members of the community be open-minded to differing views, and be willing to work towards resolutions that serve the public good, even if they do not completely satisfy individual constituencies. A public advisory committee, if correctly constituted and sufficiently motivated, can be of tremendous value in

effecting good land use planning; as such, The Madawaska Highlands Land Use Planning process may well serve as a model for future planning processes in other regions.

That having been said, it is important that members of the community make their views known. The Ministry of Natural Resources has recently published two questionnaires which solicit your opinions on some of the issues described above. Copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from Rick Calhoun, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 500, Hwy 28, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0.

### *References*

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Ottawa Valley Chapter. 1988. *A proposal for the creation of a Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust: An ecological concept for environmental protection and land use planning in Ontario* (Discussion paper). Perth, Ontario.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). 1994. Goals and objectives for the Madawaska Highlands Land Use Plan. Bancroft, Ontario. ▢

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## OFNC Bird Feeders 1995 Update

*Tony Beck*

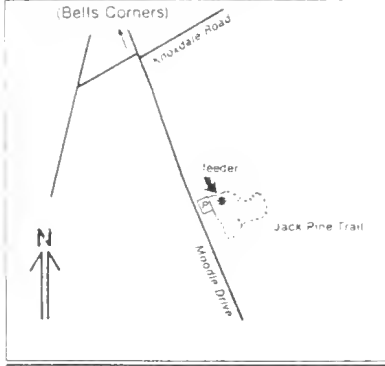
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is carrying on its tradition of maintaining public bird feeders in the area. For your pleasure, there are five feeders operating this year:

1. The Moodie Drive Feeder (Jack Pine Trail).
2. The Davidson Road Feeder.
3. The Pink Road Feeder (Moore Feeder).
4. The Mer Bleue Feeder (Dewberry Trail).
5. The Fletcher Wildlife Garden Feeder.

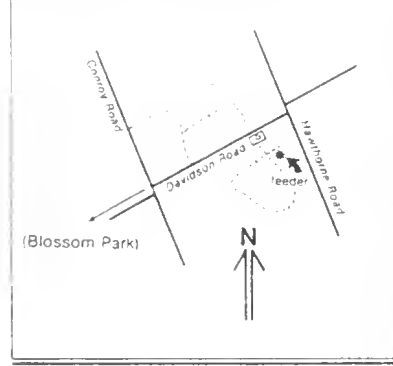
The feeders are the result of hard working and dedicated volunteers. They orchestrate the Seedathon fund raising activities, purchasing of seed and maintaining the feeding stations.

This year, Kathy Nihei and the Wild Bird Care Centre generously donated 30 large bags of sunflower seeds to the Club. This gift is greatly appreciated.

### Moodie Drive Feeder



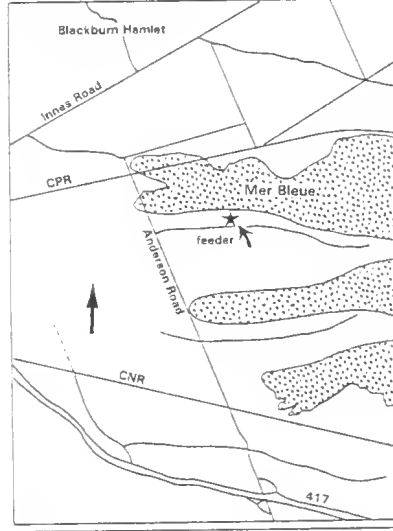
### Davidson Road Feeder



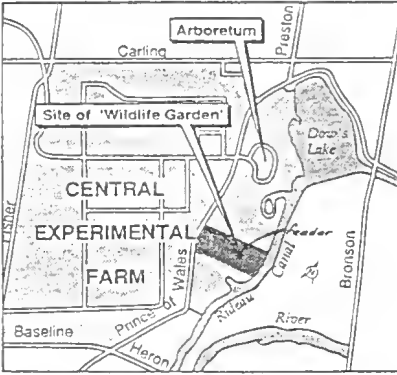
### Pink Road Feeder



### Mer Bleue Feeder



### Fletcher Wildlife Garden Feeder



I strongly recommend that all members visit these delightful winter wildlife oases. You won't regret it. ☺

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# Bird Status Line

*Michael Tate*

Effective November 15, 1994, the number to call to hear reports of recent bird sightings has been changed to 825-7444, and to give reports of bird sightings the new number is 825-1231.

There is a story to this change that involves more than just new telephone numbers. The very nature of a club such as ours is that many people put in a tremendous number of hours and a lot of effort to benefit other members and often also non-members. Much of this goes without recognition. Once in a while we take the opportunity to say "thank you" to someone who deserves special recognition for untiring services over a long period of time.

Larry Neily is such a person. For the last nine years, Larry has been the voice of the Bird Status Line, a service overseen by the Birds Committee of the Club. Many people use the line to plan their birding activities.

Larry not only produced the taped messages but also received all the phoned-in sightings from birders, and all the subsequent enquiries from other birders. He transcribed all the reports into a monthly journal which was the basis for the *Trail & Landscape* articles on "Bird Sightings in the Ottawa Area," and he sent in bird reports to the "Birders' Journal" (an Ontario birding magazine). Larry's monthly journal was also a resource for the "National Audubon Society Field Notes" (formerly "American Birds"). Larry has often been the first "point of call" for out-of-town birders looking for people, places or birds, and many of these calls have been at "unusual hours."

On behalf of the Birds Committee, members of the Club and birders throughout the Ottawa area and Ontario, I feel pleased to be able to say a big "THANK YOU" to Larry Neily for nine years of devoted service to birds and birders and for a job well done. **GOOD BIRDING LARRY !!!!**



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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee

For further information,  
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**ALL OUTINGS:** *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.*

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.*

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** *Phone 825-7444 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

*Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 776-3822 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.*

**Tuesday  
10 January  
7:30 p.m.**

## **OFNC 116th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

At this meeting the 1995 Council will be elected, the various committee reports will be read and a full disclosure of the Club's financial position will be provided. In addition, there will be a separate short presentation on the activities and functions of the Club's Education & Publicity Committee.

**January  
Date and  
Time to be  
decided**

**WINTER BIRDING AT THE CORNWALL POWER DAM**

**Leader:** Bruce Di Labio

**Meet:** Front entrance, Brooke Claxton Building (Health and Welfare Canada), de la Colombine Boulevard at Tunney's Pasture.

This full-day outing will centre upon the identification of overwintering gulls and waterfowl in the vicinity of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam. Bring a lunch, warm drink and heavy winter clothing as well as proof of citizenship. (We may travel to the American side). Transportation will be by private car. Registration will be limited to the first 20 persons to telephone the Club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) by January 5th. Registrants will be notified when a specific date and time have been established.

**Sunday  
5 February  
9:00 a.m.**

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRIP TO THE LAROSE FOREST**

**Leader:** Don Cuddy

Participants should be prepared to ski 5 to 10 km over fairly flat terrain to observe nature in winter. The outing will be limited to the first 14 persons to register by telephoning the Club number (722-3050, after 10:00 a.m. please) prior to February 1. Meeting place and other pertinent details of this all-day trip will be supplied to registrants later.

**Tuesday  
14 February  
8:00 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**

**THE EFFECTS OF FOREST FRAGMENTATION  
UPON MAMMAL AND BIRD POPULATIONS IN  
FARM WOODLOTS**

**Speaker:** Gray Merriam

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod and Streets.

Gray Merriam is a Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Environmental Science Program at Carleton University. He is also the Director of the Policy Environment Institute at the university. His illustrated talk will address how agricultural and forestry practices have fragmented the rural landscape and the responses of local wildlife populations to cope with these intrusions upon their environment.

**Friday**  
**17 February**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**BIRD SIGHT AND SOUND  
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

**Instructors:** Tony Beck and Monty Brigham  
**Meet:** Activity Room 17, basement, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.  
Participants will learn to identify a number of species that frequent the Ottawa District at varying times of the year, and gain valuable insights into bird behaviour and vocalizations. Tony's excellent slides, coupled with Monty's vast repertoire of diagnostic recordings, should provide for a most informative evening.

**Sunday**  
**5 March**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**WINTER RAPTORS OF THE OTTAWA AREA**

**Leaders:** Tony Beck and Bernie Ladouceur  
**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
This generous half-day outing will be in quest of various species of hawks and owls that may be frequenting certain fields and woodlots in the Ottawa area. Transportation will be by private car and warm clothing, a snack and a hot drink are strongly recommended.

**Saturday**  
**11 March**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**LATE WINTER BIRDS AND EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS**

**Leader:** Mike Tate  
**Meet:** Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.  
This half-day trip may include species of finches, hawks, owls, waterfowl and perhaps some early spring migratory surprises.

**Tuesday**  
**14 March**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
THE ROAD TO MADAGASCAR**

**Speaker:** Lynn Gillespie  
**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.  
Lynn Gillespie has a two-year visiting research fellowship in Botany at the Canadian Museum of Nature. In 1991 she spent six weeks on the island of Madagascar touring a number of parks and reserves. The primary focus of her trip was the collection of tropical flowering plants. During her explorations she discovered several previously undescribed species of spurge (Family Euphorbiaceae). Lynn will portray the diversity of habitats on Madagascar and she will highlight recent conservation efforts to preserve the delicate ecosystems that comprise this geographically isolated land.

Sunday  
26 March  
2:00 a.m.  
to  
8:00 a.m.

### **EARLY MORNING OWLING**

**Leaders:** Tony Beck and Bernie Ladouceur

**Meet:** Tim Horton Donuts, south side of Robertson Road. (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.

Experience the thrill of the chase as our two intrepid leaders seek to locate and identify the diagnostic calls of several nocturnal species of owl. The outing is limited to the first 20 individuals to register with the Club number (722-3050, after 10:00 a.m.).

Date and  
Time to be  
decided

### **AMPHIBIANS IN SPRING**

**Leader:** Stephen Darbyshire

The success of this outing is highly dependent upon favourable weather conditions. Those registering with the club number (722-3050, after 10:00 a.m.) prior to March 15th will be notified of the precise particulars when a decision is reached to proceed with the trip. Rubber boots, a strong flashlight and a dip net (if possible) are recommended.

Date and  
Time to be  
decided

### **SPRING BIRDING ALONG THE FLOODPLAINS OF BEAR BROOK AND THE SOUTH NATION RIVER**

**Leader:** Bruce Di Labio

**Meet:** Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot near St. Laurent Blvd. and Smyth Road.

Come and observe the vast numbers of ducks and geese utilizing the flooded fields east of Ottawa as a migratory stopover. The exact scheduling of the trip will coincide with the optimum spring flood levels in the Bear Brook/Bourget area. Register with the Club number (722-3050, after 10:00 a.m.) before March 25th to be kept informed of specific details.

Sunday  
9 April  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.

### **BUS EXCURSION:**

#### **SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE**

**Leaders:** Bob Bracken and Colin Gaskell

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

**Cost:** \$20.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events for details.)



The Club's traditional spring excursion to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the diverse assortment of water fowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration.

**Tuesday  
11 April  
8:00 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
UNDER THE SEA IN ANTARCTICA  
AND THE HIGH ARCTIC**

**Speaker:** Kathy Conlan

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Kathy Conlan is a graduate of Queen's University, the University of Victoria and Carleton University. She has been employed as a scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature (since 1979) and studies sea bottom communities of animals and plants under the ice in Antarctica and the High Arctic. Her research concerns impacts of ice gouging and waste contamination, comparing their positive and negative effects and the prospects for community restoration. Kathy will take us on an underwater tour showing what life is like under the ice and will compare the marine fauna of the Antarctic with the Arctic, and how ice controls community structure.

**23 April  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.**



**BUS EXCURSION: HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL**

**Leaders:** Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

**Cost:** \$25.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events for details.)

When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill, New York is an amazing phenomenon well worth the bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in new condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The excursion will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan. Transportation will be by a comfortable, washroom-equipped motor coach supplied by Carleton Bus Lines.

**Friday  
28 April  
7:30 p.m.**

**OFNC SOIRÉE-WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND  
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Meet:** Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street.  
See the centre fold for further details.

**Saturday  
and  
Sunday  
29 & 30 April**

### **SPRUCE GROUSE IN ALGONQUIN PARK**

Full details of this excursion will appear in the April-June issue of *T & L*.

### **POINT PELEE EXCURSION**

**Thursday  
11 May  
to  
Sunday  
14 May  
(inclusive)**



Your Club, through New Dimensions Tours, is offering an excursion to Point Pelee to observe birds and other interesting aspects of natural history. As an added attraction, a full day (Saturday) will be spent at nearby Rondeau Provincial Park, an area widely acknowledged for its biodiversity.

Point Pelee National Park is a fascinating blend of marsh, beach, fields and mature Carolinian forest located at the southernmost tip of mainland Canada. Its strategic position along the migratory corridors has led to its international reputation as perhaps the best spot in North America to view the northward migration of birds. Hordes of naturalists arrive each spring to observe many of the more than 300 species of birds (including 41 species of warblers) that have been recorded in the Park. It is possible to tally over 100 species in a single day during the peak of spring migration. Join your fellow Club members in this naturalists' paradise in 1995.

ACCOMMODATION will be at the Comfort Inn by Journey's End Motel in Leamington, a mere 10 km from the Park entrance. Costs are based on twin occupancy (i.e., two beds per room) and work out to \$280 per person. Triple and quadruple occupancy rates are also available at a cost of \$255 and \$235 per person, respectively. Prices quoted include all taxes. There is no single room rate available.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE PRICES INCLUDE BUS FARE AND ACCOMMODATION BUT NOT MEALS.**

MEALS will be provided at nearby restaurants with breakfast tentatively scheduled for 5-5:30 a.m. and dinner for 6:30 p.m. Box lunches will be provided on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Meals will be paid for individually; they are not included in the above quoted costs.

### TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Thursday 11 May	Leave Ottawa 6:00 a.m., stopover at Stoney Point in the afternoon and arrive in Leamington around 6:30 p.m.
Friday 12 May	Breakfast between 5-5:30 a.m., depart for Point Pelee National Park at 5:45 a.m., arrive back at the motel by 6:00 p.m. Evening free.
Saturday 13 May	Breakfast between 5-5:30 a.m., depart for Rondeau Provincial Park at 5:45 a.m., arrive back at the motel by 6:00 p.m. Evening free.
Sunday 14 May	Breakfast between 6-6:30 a.m., spend 3 or 4 hours at Point Pelee before returning home, arrive in Ottawa around 8:00 p.m.

#### NOTES:

- Reservations should be made as soon as possible by calling the Club number (722-3050). **Payment in full** must be received by **March 1, 1995**. For a full refund, notice of cancellation must be made before March 15. Subsequent to this deadline, refunds will only be made in the case of very special circumstances and the Club reserves the right to delay a decision until after the excursion has occurred.
- A trip cancellation waiver (for medical reasons only and applicable prior to date of departure) is available at an additional cost of \$9.00 per person and is payable at the same time as the rest of your payment. Claims for reimbursement must be supported by a medical certificate.
- Be prepared for large crowds in the National Park.
- The bus will be in proximity at all times during the day.

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## Attention, All Members!

1995 membership fees are now due. Please renew promptly; later renewals entail extra work and add to your Club's expenses.

We would like to keep our mailing list up to date so that members do not miss a copy of *Trail & Landscape*.<sup>□</sup>

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# The GREEN LINE



## BILL 163 To Be Proclaimed

Long-awaited planning reform legislation, Bill 163, was passed in September 1994 and will soon bind all Ontario government departments and agencies to a series of new provincial policies.

An Implementation Advisory Task Force has been created to provide advice on the many implementation issues that are bound to arise. The development industry, environmental community as well as the municipal sector have been meeting at this forum since May 1994 and will complete their work in March 1996, at the end of the "transition period" for implementation of the new legislation. Selection of the environmental group representatives was coordinated by the Land-Use Caucus of the Ontario Environmental Network, which has kept member organizations, including the OFNC, well-informed on issues and progress. Certain Ontario ministries have been involved as "lead agencies" to draft implementation guidelines for new policies which include: Growth and Settlement, Natural Heritage, Fish Habitat, Environmental Impact Studies, Land-Use Compatibility, Waste Management and Agricultural Land.

Compromises were made to enable passage of the Bill, and concerns have been raised by environmental groups that authority for the protection of natural features is being largely transferred from provincial agencies to municipal authorities without the necessary funding or technical resources. In effect, consultants working for developers will basically produce the Environmental Impact Studies that will be used by municipal councils to decide the fate of Ontario's natural areas. Landowner reaction to the provisions of the Natural Heritage and Environmental Protection policy statement (to protect wetlands, woodlots, shorelines, wildlife habitat and wildlife in general) by designation without compensation might compromise the effectiveness of the planning reform package even more. One original purpose of the review was to lessen the demand for Ontario Municipal Board hearings to resolve disputes. It now appears the Board has been given even more sweeping powers and could be called upon to use them more than ever before.

## A Wetlands Policy For Ottawa-Carleton

In July 1994, Regional Council withdrew the zoning legislation (ROPA 45) that was to have implemented the 1992 Ontario Wetlands policy in Ottawa-Carleton. This deferral was clearly intended to "defuse" a political time-bomb, in view of the upcoming municipal elections to be held in November 1994. RMOC Council imposed a 12-month moratorium on development of "provincially-significant" lands and resolved to set up a Wetlands Working Group to find solutions to various contentious issues. The composition and mandate of the working group, as defined by RMOC Council, is "a focus group be formed made up of concerned parties including the landowners, developers, and natural conservationists to respond to Planning Committee and that their mandate be to resolve their differences with professional input". The Working Group has since been formed and met for the first time on November 23rd, coincidentally the date of the last meeting of the outgoing RMOC Council.

The Wetlands Working Group is composed of eight members, and includes a delegate from the OFNC, the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, the Association of Rural Property Owners, the Ottawa-Carleton Homebuilders Association, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority as well as three landowners from different parts of the region. The WWG has been provided with a professional facilitation team and access to regional planners and provincial agency staff as required. The WWG plans to make its recommendations in the form of a report to RMOC Planning Committee in September 1995.

The first meetings of the WWG have tentatively explored "common ground" and the spectrum of outstanding issues to be resolved. The central issue being discussed by the Working Group is how landowners could be compensated for protection of environmentally sensitive lands in the public interest.

The OFNC delegate is Michael Murphy, who invites anyone interested in the matter to contact him at 727-1739 (or his alternate, Ewen Todd at 225-4316) to discuss the issues and alternatives.

**GREEN LINE**

News Editor: Michael Murphy (613) 727-1739/ Fax: 727-1245

## Kanata North Expansion Halted

by Michael Ross Murphy

A year ago, Regional Council approved a proposal by the City of Kanata to expand the urban Kanata north of Klondike Road by 200 hectares. The City of Kanata was representing the interests of several developers who hoped to revive development plans that had been quashed by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) as a condition of OMB approval for Terrace's Palladium.

The Palladium was to have been the "keystone" of a comprehensive Kanata - Stittsville west urban development study but the timing required for securing the Senators hockey team franchise resulted in the other developers being "shut out" of the deal. The OFNC and other community groups were understandably opposed to the original plan of development and to the revised Kanata North expansion scheme as well.

Kanata Mayor Merle Nicholds found herself in the awkward position of opposing the expansion proposal when it was debated and passed by Kanata Council but (as the only member of Kanata Council also sitting on Regional Council) having to speak in support of it when it was considered by RMOC Council! It gets better: the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA), which usually "rubber stamps" formal approval of municipal council decisions, withheld their approval from Regional Official Plan Amendment 41. It really shouldn't have surprised anyone, since the MMA had commented all along that Kanata already had at least a twenty-year supply of urban-designated land and that the proposed designation was "premature and unnecessary".

However, a belligerent RMOC Council, angry at this intervention by provincial authorities, demanded referral of their Official Plan Amendment to the Ontario Municipal Board and a prehearing conference is to be held on February 13th. But a new Council was elected in November, the first with Regional Councillors that do not also sit on local municipal councils. RMOC Council as a body should be less "parochial" and more able to consider the long term implications of urban expansion alternatives. Their first big test will come next week, when the new RMOC Council will be asked to rescind the Official Plan Amendment the previous Council passed in January, 1994, which would have the effect of withdrawing the RMOC request for an OMB challenge. The motion to reconsider, a highly unusual measure, was made by Alex Munter, formerly one of the few Kanata city councillors opposed to the expansion proposal and now a Regional Councillor representing Kanata.

## The Short Story...

### "Meet the N.C.C."

A public meeting, called "Meet the N.C.C.", will be held at 7:30 pm, on Thursday January 26th at the Ottawa Congress Centre. At this meeting, Marcel Beaudry, Chairman of the National Capital Commission, is expected to announce NCC plans for the Greenbelt lands. Members of the public will have a rare opportunity to meet with NCC Commissioners from across Canada and senior NCC executives.

### Construction in Britannia

Construction of two stormwater detention ponds has begun along the NCC Bicycle Path east of Britannia Village, adjacent to Pinecrest Creek's outlet into the Ottawa River. Over the next two years, stormwater management alternatives concerning Mud Lake will be evaluated with involvement of community groups and the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

### Deschenes Rapids

The Government of Quebec has yet another good reason to abandon the proposed \$10 million dam and hydro generation project. On December 8th, the proposed location, the section of rapids just adjacent to the shoreline at Aylmer, was inspected by the Canadian Coast Guard and was determined to be "navigable". This imposes additional requirements to be satisfied by GTM Hydrovolt, the private sector consortium that is proposing the project. During the reconnaissance flight by the Coast Guard helicopter, two kayakers and a canoeist braved the ice cold waters, shooting the rapids as an effective demonstration that the waters are indeed navigable, at least in one direction!

### Natural Pursuits

Spend a weekend in May with three of Ottawa's best naturalists! Natural Pursuits of Ottawa is hosting a **Nature Weekend May 28-29, 1995**, with:

Bruce di Labio (birds), Rob Lee (general nature), and Geof Burbidge (geology, botany).

Field trips will be all day Saturday and Sunday, in the Ottawa region and Gatineau Park. Catered reception Friday evening, naturalists' mixer Saturday evening at Carleton University. \$75.00 / person, accommodation packages also available. Call Anne Burbidge 613-821-7764 to register, or for more details. Weekend limited to 40 participants, so don't delay!